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THE ECONOMY OF TUVA AUTONOMOUS OBLAST

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

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The following table shows the relative importance of various branches of the economy in Tuva Autonomous Oblast in 1947:

Percentage of Total

Agriculture	61.9
Industry	21.4
Hunting industry	16.7

In 1948 over one third of all Tuvinian agriculture was collectivized. In 1949 there were 100 kolkhozes and 51 livestock-farming cooperatives.

Tuva has great potentialities for large-scale development of livestock raising. Out of a total area of 17,130,000 hectares, 5,720,000 hectares, or one third of the total area is pasture land.

Transportation and industry have also developed during the last few years. In 1941 there were several small electric power plants, saw mills, automobile repair shops, brick factories, food and sewing combines, mills, and other small enterprises in Tuva. Between 1941 and 1945, Tuvian industry doubled.

In 1948 the oblast had 14 local industry enterprises of which seven subordinated to the oblast were located in Kyzyl. These included a tanning enterprise, a sawmill, a brick factory, food and sewing combines, shoe saddle, and metal repair shops. There were also the following seven regional industrial combines located in various regions of the oblast: Turanskiy, Znamenskiy, Shagonarskiy, Chadanskiy, Blykhemskiy, Kyzylmazhalykskiy, and Erzinskiy. These regional industrial enterprises produce for oblast consumption. During the current Five-Year Plan, production of local industry will expand 3.5 times.

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Various raw materials for the production of construction materials and industrial and food products are available in Tuva. The existence of raw materials favors rapid development of the local industry. Water power supplied by mountain-fed streams at present is almost completely unexploited and can be a decisive factor in the electrification of the oblast. Small rivers can be utilized for hydroelectric power plants with 15-40 kilowatt capacity which will serve agriculture. The existing power plants which have a capacity of 15-20 kilowatts (Turan, Shagonar, Chadan, Baykhak) operate in villages and serve local purposes only. The mechanization and expansion of existing enterprises and the construction of new enterprises will require rapid expansion in electrification. At present, the construction of an electric power plant with a capacity of up to 1,500 kilowatts has been planned for the Elegest River.(1)

A tenfold increase in the power sources of Tuva Oblast has been planned for the period 1944 - 1949. All MTS, state, and cooperative farms are to be electrified. In addition to the 17 electric power plants now in operation 19 rural hydroelectric power plants and three steam-electric power plants are being constructed.(2)

Out of a total area of 17.3 million hectares in the oblast, 13 million are utilized for hunting. The most important animals are the squirrel and sable which are especially numerous in the eastern Tuva Highlands. The flying squirrel, sought for its valuable fur, is found only in pine forests.

Next to the squirrel, the sable is of great importance to hunters. As a result of special government licensing to hunt sables, the sable has again appeared in Kyzylskiy and Buykhemskiy rayons where formerly it was almost exterminated. Other animals hunted include the elk, maral, argali, and musk deer.(1)

SOURCES

1. Leningrad, Izvestiya Vsesoyuznogo Geograficheskogo Obshchestva, May/Jun 1950
2. Moscow, V Tsentre Aziatskogo Materika, Goskul'tprosvetizdat, Moscow 1950, p 126

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